has been constituted to formulate water policy in the country and to review it;

(b) if so, the details of the composition of the Council;

(c) the number of meetings held by the Council during last three years indicating date and place of meeting; and

(d) the main conclusions and recommendations of the meetings and the follow up action taken on the decisions arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Nationl Water Resources Council was set up on 10th March, 1983. As per present composition of the Council, the Prime Minister is its Chairman, Union Minister of Water Resources is its Vice-Chaiman and Union Ministers of Finance, Agriculture, Power, Welfare, Rural Areas & Employment, Urban Affairs & Employment, Planning, Surface Transport, Science & Technology, Environment & Forests, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Chief Ministers of States and Administrators of Union Territories are Members. Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources is the Secretary of National Water Resources Council.

(c) The third Meeting of the National Water Resources Council was held on 6th February, 1996 at New Delhi. The Council has not met since September, 1987 till 6th February, 1996.

(d) In the first meeting of National Water Resources Council held on 30.10 1985, it was decided to prepare a National Water Policy.

In the second meeting of the Council held on 9.9.1987, the National water Policy was adopted.

In the third meeting of the council held on 6.2 1996, the main conclusion and recommendations are as follows :

(i) National guidelines on many issues of water resources development are necessary though the problems may differ from state to state.

(ii) In the 9th Plan proposals, special provision for maintenance, dredging, desiltation, etc., should be included.

(iii) More funds should be allocated for maintenance.

(iv) In the 9th Plan, real imaginative proposals should be made

(v) Various important policy guidelines on water management, resettlement & rehabilitation of reservoir project affected persons, allocation of water for differet uses, etc., discussed in the third meeting should be modified based on the deliberations.

The National Water Board would be shortly taking up follow-up action on the modification of the draft policy guidelines. The other suggestions would be kept in view while finalising the 9th Plan proposals

[English]

Funds Spent on Primary Education

554. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether lesser funds are being provided for primary education as compared with higher education;

(b) if so, the break-up of allocation made therefor during the last three years;

(c) whether any efforts have been made to minimise this imbalance; and

(d) if so, the details and the impact thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) The total funds provided for Elementary Education (upto Class-VIII) by the State Governments and the Central Government are not less than that of the funds provided for higher education.

(b) The year-wise allocations for the last three years are given in the attached statement.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

STATEMENT

Financial Allocation for Elementary Education & University & Higher Education

1992-95 (Rs. in crores)

Sector	1992-93 (A)		
	Centre	States/UTs	Total
1	2	3	4
Elementary Education	316.25	9161.07	9477.32
Higher Education	504.81	2195.14	2699.95
Total Education	1797.30	19155.60	20952.98
	1993-94 (RE)		
Elementary Education	433.96	10915.47	11369.43
Higher Education	538.77	2497.23	3036.00
Total Education	2188.91	22080.08	24268.99

1	2	3	4
		1994-95 (BE)	
Elementary Education	523.22	12064.68	12587.90
Higher Education	581.88	2671.74	3253.62
Total Education	2420.26	24756.97	27177.23

Bhutanese Refugees

555. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that thousands of Bhutanese refugees have taken shelter in the Indo-Nepal border areas;

(b) whether some of these refugees while participating in appeal march to return to Bhutan have been arrested and jailed by the police of West Bengal;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of refugees arrested so far;

(d) whether it is a fact that one of the refugees died in a Central Jail in West Bengal; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). Government are aware of the movement of Bhutanese citizens of Nepalese origin from their place of origin to camps in Nepal. Some groups have attempted to march from Nepal through Indian territory towards Bhutan in order to agitate the matter of their status and their demands. It is the consistent policy of the Government of not allowing political activities on Indian soil directed against friendly countries. Hence prohibitory orders have been imposed by the competent authorities. 1896 persons were taken into protective custody, in accordance with the laws of the land, for violating the prohibitory orders. Most of them have already been released.

(d) and (e). It is learnt that one of the detinees Shri Babu Ram Tamang, who was suffering from tuberculosis, passed away on 13 June 1996 in the Berhampur Central Jail.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance for Physical Education

556 SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide financial assistance to the States to improve the standard of physical education in schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of states which have placed their demand in this regard as well as the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(c) the extent of financial assistance sanctioned to each state during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) No, Sir. There is no scheme under which Government propose to provide financial assistance to the states to improve the standards of physical education in schools.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Gratuity to Retired Workers of CIL

557. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the retired workers of Coal India Limited have not been paid gratuity till date;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which their gratuity will be paid;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the workers are not being provided the benefit of LTC for the last two years; and

(d) if so, the time by which the unpaid amount pertaining to LTC is likely to be paid to the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) :(a) and (b). As per information furnished by Coal India Ltd., the payments of gratuity to its retired employees have generally been made in time. However, there has been delay in cases relating to one of the subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited upon its being confronted with a severe crash crunch or where the claimants had not completed the requisite procedural formalities.

(c) and (d). Financial constraints faced by a subsidiary company of Coal India Limited have led to delay in provision of LTC benefit to the workers. While efforts are being made to remedy the situation, indicating a definite time limit therefor does not seem possible.

Review of National Policy on Education

558. SHRI T. GOPALKRISHNA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have undertaken the review of the National Policy on Education since its implementation; and